

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
FLORENCE DIVISION**

Rebecca P. Gaskins, as Personal  
Representative of the Estate of Rufus Walt  
Gaskins,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Strates Shows, Inc. and William L.  
Messamore,

Defendants.

C/A No. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

**TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORENCE DIVISION**

Defendants Strates Shows, Inc. and William L. Messamore (collectively “Defendants”) hereby remove this action pursuant 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441, *et seq.*, and would respectfully show unto the Court:

1. That upon information and belief at the time of the commencement of this action and of the filing of this Notice of Removal, Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of the State of South Carolina. At the time of his death, Plaintiff’s Decedent also was a citizen and resident of the State of South Carolina.

2. Defendant Strates Shows, Inc. was and is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida.

3. That at the time of the commencement of this action and of the filing of this Notice of Removal, Defendant William L. Messamore was and is a citizen and resident of the State of Florida.

4. That the above-entitled action has been commenced by Plaintiff against Defendants by the filing of a Summons and Complaint, with Civil Action No. 2021-CP-21-00384, on February 19, 2021, and serving the Summons and Complaint upon Defendant on or about February 23, 2001, and this case is now pending in the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas for Florence County, which is located within the above-named Division of this Court; that the time within which Defendants are required to answer or plead to the Complaint has not yet expired; and that Defendants have not answered or pleaded to the said Complaint.

5. That this action is a civil case in which Plaintiff alleges that Plaintiff's Decedent, Rufus Walt Gaskins, was fatally injured in a vehicular accident that occurred in Florence County on July 28, 2020. Plaintiff alleges negligence, recklessness, and gross negligence claims against Defendants and prays for actual and punitive damages.

6. That Plaintiff's Complaint does not include a specific prayer for actual damages or punitive damages, but a reasonable interpretation of the Complaint is that the matter in controversy between the Plaintiff and Defendants, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value of Seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 (\$75,000.00) Dollars, of which the United States District Courts have original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

7. That Defendants filed herewith in this Court a copy of all process, pleadings and orders served upon them in this action, as a part of this Notice of Removal; being the Summons, Complaint and Acceptances of Service.

8. That the Clerk of Court from which the action is removed has been served with a copy of the Notice of Removal.

WHEREFORE, Defendants pray that this Notice of Removal be accepted as sufficient for removal of the said action to this Court.

TURNER, PADGET, GRAHAM & LANEY, P.A.

March 17, 2021

By: s/ Carmelo B. Sammataro  
Carmelo B. Sammataro (Fed. I.D. # 9174)  
Post Office Box 1473  
Columbia, SC 29202  
Phone: (803) 254-2200  
Fax: (803) 799-3957  
SSammataro@TurnerPadget.com

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS